

Campus Chronicles

Mr. International – By Ronald Wade



I write this article with great reservation. Not because I am ashamed of its contents, but because of its potential to offend. Many may or may not appreciate what I write this week, but I feel it necessary. I also worry because of the potential backlash that may come with it as a result. Anytime you speak of your past or tell people old truths about yourself, you never know when those truths

will come back to haunt you. People will not see who you are, but who you use to be and judge you accordingly. Before I begin, know that I have been saved, forgiven and the Holy Spirit dwells within me. I am a faithful married man of almost five years with three lovely children. I have one stepdaughter, one daughter from a previous marriage, and a son with my current wife.

I use to be what I will call “sexual shark,” and I was good at what I did. I would manipulate women into doing whatever I wanted from them at the time. I took pride in my abilities to have a woman do as I wanted. I have been with every type of woman and did not discriminate. Tall, short, overweight, skinny, it did not matter. I was a predator amongst predators. I have been with more women than I can or care to remember. Take all your fingers and toes, multiply it by three and you may begin to scratch the surface on the number of lady friends I’ve had. I was known among my circle of friends as an “international.” We called ourselves internationals because we have been with woman of almost every race. We were “International Players.”

It is sad that a man like that can exist in this world. Needless to say, it was easy. They did exist, and still do. I could meet a woman in a dance club or grocery store and within five minutes know how ...

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The Church Outside of Church- By Matthew Balling

I'm taking an evangelism class this semester, and some of the things I'm learning are pretty shocking. For instance 80% of the unchurched and lost say they would come to church if someone would only invite them. However, the scary thing is, only 2% of people who are going to church are doing the inviting. Jesus wasn't lying, when he said, "...the harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few" (Matthew 9:37 KJV); and, "Say not ye, there are

yet four months, and then cometh harvest? Behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest" (John 4:35 KJV).

The laborers are really few, there are a tiny minute number of people who are spiritual laboring, and have a zeal for souls. There can be a number of reasons for this; one, laziness, people are afraid, fear can cause us not to do a work for God. "The slothful man saith, there is a lion in the way;

a lion is in the streets" (Proverbs 26:13 KJV). People don't want to go into the highways and hedges, the streets, and witness, because they are afraid and haven't learned to come out of their comfort zones. God didn't give us the spirit of fear, but of power, love, and a sound mind. However, only 2% of the church is operating in that power to reach the unchurched. The problem is that people are not picking ...

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New Music From...VOTA– by Rachel Bertrand



This week's music group VOTA has a secret. It's not really a new band. This quartet, formerly known as "Casting Pearls," changed their name in 2008. It is said they changed their name to avoid confusion with "Casting Crowns." Regardless of the name change, the band delivers a great new album with the opening song "Hard to

Believe" that will jump-start the hearing of any listener, then eases gently into "Be Mine," a charming, retro-tinted love song to the Lord. The band amps things up again with "Love's Taken Over," where Bryan Oleson's distinctive voice sings its way to excellence.

Actually, the Nebraska-based quartet has mastered the art of subliminal arrangements that boost Oleson's voice to its rightful place in the spotlight. They also succeed on "Honestly," a toned-down anthem that utilizes a lovely piano accompaniment and the strongest lyrical lines on the project: *"If you don't see the real me, you won't see what mercy has done/ If you don't see my weakness, you won't see what love has won."* I think this had to be my favorite song and line from

the whole album. As the album goes on, it brings you to the middle tracks "Give it to Me" and "Bye Bye" which are infused with tasteful synthesizers, techno beats, and strident guitars.

The talented foursome has a lot going for them...band mates Oleson, Case Maranville, Scott Rutz and Riley Friesen have formed a solid life long friendship, and their energy flows effortlessly through each track. You can see how they flow and work so well together to produce such a great project that will reverberate long after the last notes of "In My Heart." I found that it was good to listen to while on a long drive. It made time go by so much faster because of how up-tempo it was. All in all, it's a very lively and entertaining album.

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"...they are not witnessing because they are not dying to self."

... up the maturity of the cross, they are not witnessing because they are not dying to self. If you protect and try to save your life you're going to lose it, but if you lose your life for the Gospel you will save it. The Greek word for witness is martyr. Hello! (As Pastor T would say) Martyrs die! However, you don't have to get your head chopped off to go out into the streets or the shopping mall to share what you know about Jesus to a total stranger! There are two aspects of being a

witness (a martyr). One, physically you are killed; and two, you lay down your life. What does it mean to lay down your life? You extend yourself, deny yourself, do what doesn't feel good for a moment, get out of your comfort zone, and pick up the cross. I guarantee you God will meet you more than half way, when you do these things. We do these things because God commands us that we go and share our faith, to anyone and everywhere. Go and

preach the Gospel, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15 KJV). It's good to go to church because it builds up your faith. The Bible says, "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17 KJV). You usually hear the word of God from a preacher in the church, and it should build up your faith enough to go into the world and be the church.

John Calvin's *Institutes*: The Value of Prayer- By Andrew Johnson

John Calvin draws a relationship between the value and necessity of prayer, the depravity of man, and the grace that is in Christ. Man is “destitute and devoid of all good things” and “he lacks all aids to salvation.” He is therefore in need of these things and must “go outside himself and get them elsewhere.” It is in Christ that the Lord “willingly and freely reveals himself” as our Redeemer. “For in Christ he offers all happiness in place of our misery, all wealth in place of our neediness; in him he opens to us the heavenly treasures that our whole faith may contemplate his beloved Son.” This is so that we depend on Him and that “our whole hope cleave to and rest in him.” Faith instructs us “to recognize that whatever we need and whatever we lack is in God, and in the Lord Jesus Christ.”

After being so instructed by faith, however,

it remains for us to “seek in him, and in prayers to ask of him, what we have learned to be in him.” Calvin draws an analogy between not seeking good things while knowing “God as the master and bestower of all good things, who invites us to request them” and a man who neglects a needed treasure, even though he has been told of the location. Knowing God as the bestower of all good things is of little profit to us if we do not ask of Him. Indeed, as Calvin expresses the teaching of Paul, “true faith cannot be indifferent about calling upon God.” If we have been so instructed by faith to recognize our need, we are also trained by faith to call upon God.

It is by prayer (calling upon God) that “we reach those riches which are laid up for us with the Heavenly Father.” There is a communion in prayer between God and us wherein we “appeal to him

in person concerning his promises.” This brings us from merely knowing about God's promises to actually experiencing them. There is nothing that the Lord promises that He does not also bid us to ask of Him. Calvin plays off of his earlier analogy and writes, “So true is it that we dig up by prayer the treasures that were pointed out by the Lord's gospel, and which faith has gazed upon.” In prayer, we “invoke the presence of both his providence...and his power.” We also invoke His goodness and His grace. In short, “it is by prayer that we call him to reveal himself as wholly present to us. Hence comes an extraordinary peace and repose to our consciences.” Prayer is the means by which we commune with God, and in such a way as to know Him who “has both the will and the power to take the best care of us.”

“There is a communion in prayer between God and us ...”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Volunteers are needed to help with Graduation. Please contact the TLBC office and help make this graduation great!



Join millions of Christians across the Country for the National Day of Prayer, Thursday, May 7. Prayer will be a focus for TLBC Chapel that day, both the morning and evening chapels.

Hurry and buy your yearbook, while there's still time!



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... long it would take. A few simple questions about a woman's family, life and fatherly relationship was a sure gauge of a woman's virtue and modestly. I could be whatever a woman wanted me to be in order to gain her trust.

I tell you this now because of the many young ladies I see today that push aside their virtue in order to please a man. I am not talking about the unsaved but the saved. There are so many Christ-loving women who I see in the church that are not living holy lives. More often than not, I find these young ladies, not just sexually active, but living with boyfriends. They are involved in physical relationships with no vows of marriage. This goes against God's will and aligns with the ways of the world: "Do whatever pleases you and push God to the side." This must stop!

Ladies - if a man is willing to allow you to turn your back on God's desires, he is not a man you want. A real man should never push you away from God's expectation of purity in your life. If he does, it is purely selfish on his part. He is putting his fleshly desires before God's commandments and one day he will put his wants and desires before yours. Unfortunately, the long-term spiritual damage of adultery will be

the lesson you learn. Gentlemen, the reverse is also true: any woman that can turn her back on the Lord just so she can lay with you will one day turn her back on you. The long-term spiritual damage of adultery will also be your lesson learned.

My biggest insight to this came the week after I gave my life over to the Lord. My wife [my girlfriend at the time] had already given her life over to Christ a month prior and was turning her life around. She put the "no physical intimacy" demand on me just after her salvation. I, of course, broke up with her and she "put the Lord on me." The cold hard fact is, I would have never gained respect for her if she had not gained respect for herself. Ladies, a man will only respect you if you respect yourself. So, to all those ladies looking to find a husband, but compromising your purity, stop now if a God-loving husband is what you truly desire. True men of God only respect women who respect themselves.

I had been unable to respect her until she started respecting herself. I did not know it, but she had begun to pray over me when she gave her life over to God. She prayed that I too give my life over to Christ. After I gave my life to the Lord, my first vow was to give up sex outside of

marriage. Could this be true? Not Mr. International!

My girlfriend was truly someone I did not know, even though we had spent the previous two years of our lives together. Our dinner dates changed that. Prior to salvation, dinner for us was about thirty minutes long. It was a hurried event so we could get back home. Now that God's will was a focus in our lives, there was no need to go back home. Now, dinner was an event that would last three maybe even four hours. This person whom I had treated like a toy was now a woman in my eyes. Our dinner conversations allowed me to get to know her as a person. She was funny, intelligent, down-to-earth, and spirit filled. She was truly everything I ever desired in a woman. I would have never known this if I had not begun living God's way. There are two things I want you to think about before I end:

One – men want what they cannot have. A woman not "had" because of her virtue is a woman desired as a wife.

Two – "Why buy the cow when you can get the milk for free?" This is a quote given to my wife prior to her salvation by her best friend. This best friend helped my wife gain back her purity and helped her land a pretty good looking husband if I must say so myself.

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